ANNUAL REPORT

on the Health of the

RURAL DISTRICT OF STROOD

during the year

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

1952

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Medical Officer of Health

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

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Senior Sanitary Inspector

G. WILSON, Cert. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

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D.W.HORNCASTLE, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

Rodent Officer

L.J.DIXON.

Clerk

K. MERRY.

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Health Department,
Council Offices,
Frindsbury Hill,
Strood, Kent.

July, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Strood Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my thirty-first Annual Report on the health of the area for the year ended 31st December, 1952.

As will be seen by the statistics contained in this report, there have been no serious outbreaks of infectious diseases during the year. Medical practitioners notified 108 infectious diseases during the year, forty-five of these related to tuberculosis, 33 pulmonary and 12 non-pulmonary. This is an increase over the number of cases of tuberculosis reported last year but can be accounted for by the fact that 12 notifications related to temporary workers resident in the workmens camp at the oil refinery site, Isle of Grain.

During the year there were 382 births yielding a birth rate of 17.9 per 1,000 population compared with 15.3 for England and Wales. The death rate of 10.3 for 220 deaths also compares favourably with the rate of 11.3 for England and Wales.

Details of Health Services provided by the Kent County Council under the National Health Service Act,1946, are contained in the report.

I would take this opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council for their interest and the support of the Staff throughout the year.

Your obedient servant,

M.F. McDONNELL.

Medical Officer of Health.

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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA

VITAL STATISTICS

	1952
Area of District...	48,541 acres.
Estimated Resident Population..	21,320.
Number of inhabited Houses	6,344.
Rateable Value	£144,408.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£596.
Births	382.
Birth Rate	17.9
Deaths	220.
Death Rate	10.3
Infantile Mortality Rate	36.6 per 1,000 births.

BIRTHS

Of the total live births registered, 186 were male and 196 female. There were 22 illegitimate births, 14 male and 8 female.

DEATHS

The total number of deaths registered numbered 220, comprising 124 males and 96 females. The figure is arrived at after deducting deaths of non-residents and adding those residents who died outside the district.

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

There were 14 deaths of infants under one year of age, comprising 8 males and 6 females, giving an infantile mortality figure of 36.64 per 1,000 births.

There were 7 stillbirths registered comprising 4 males and 3 females.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE STROOD RURAL DISTRICT

1952

ALL CAUSES:	M 124	F 96
1. Tuberculosis of respiratory system.	2	1
2. Tuberculosis - other forms.	-	1
3. Syphilitic Disease.	1	1
4. Whooping Cough.	1	-
5. Other infective and parasitic diseases.	1	-
6. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	9	3
7. Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus.	3	1
8. Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	6
9. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	2
10. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm.	14	5
11. Vascular lesions of nervous system.	10	21
12. Coronary disease, angina.	13	6
13. Hypertension with heart disease.	3	2
14. Other heart disease.	21	22
15. Other circulatory disease.	6	3
16. Influenza.	1	1
17. Pneumonia.	8	3
18. Bronchitis.	8	3
19. Other diseases of respiratory system.	1	-
20. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	-	1
21. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	2	2
22. Nephritis and nephrosis.	1	1
23. Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	-
24. Congenital malformations.	1	2
25. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	7	6
26. Motor vehicle accidents.	4	-
27. All other accidents.	5	2
28. Suicide.	1	1

Analysis of Age Groups of Deaths occuring during 1952:

PARISH	AGE GROUPS						
	0-10 years	10-20 years	20-40 years	40-60 years	60-70 years	70-80 years	80-100 years
Allhallows	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cliffe	2	-	-	3	4	12	7
Cobham	-	-	-	3	4	6	3
Cooling	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cuxton	2	-	-	1	-	4	3
Frindsbury	2	-	5	6	7	3	7
Halling	-	-	1	5	3	13	3
Higham	1	-	-	-	6	8	8
High Halstow	1	-	-	1	-	-	1
Hoo	-	-	1	-	6	2	7
Isle of Grain	1	-	4	-	2	2	-
Luddesdown	2	-	-	-	-	1	1
Meopham	1	-	2	2	8	10	7
St. Mary Hoo	-	-	-	1	1	2	-
Shorne	-	-	1	1	3	4	3
Stoke	-	-	-	2	-	2	2
TOTALS	13	-	14	25	44	69	54
Percentage of total deaths	5.94%	-	6.4%	11.41%	20.1%	31.5%	24.65%

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases and other Diseases.

Tabulated statement of cases notified in each Parish:-

PARISH	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Tuberculosis: Pulmonary	Tuberculosis: Non-Pulmonary	Poliomyelitis	Meningitis	Paratyphoid Fever	Erysipelas	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	TOTAL
Allhallows	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cliffe	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Cobham	-	-	-	-	2	1	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Cooling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cuxton	-	5	-	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	12
Frindsbury	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	8
Halling	-	1	-	13	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
Higham	-	3	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
High Halstow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hoo	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	7
Grain	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	13
Luddesdown	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Meopham	-	1	-	4	3	5	3	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	21
St.Mary Hoo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shorne	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Stoke	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	13	-	26	6	9	33	12	5	1	-	3	-	-	108

SCARLET FEVER

Number of cases.....13
Number of deaths..... -
Number of cases removed to Hospital..... 3
Percentage of cases removed.....23%

YEAR	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Enteric Fever	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1942	42	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1943	40	Nil	6	2	Nil	Nil
1944	47	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1945	23	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
1946	28	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
1947	13	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1948	7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1949	17	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1950	27	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1951	12	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1952	13	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTALS	269	Nil	9	2	Nil	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS

Statement of particulars appearing on the Register of Notifications of Tuberculosis for the Year ended 31st December, 1952:-

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
(a) No. of Cases on Register at the commencement of Year.	32	37	69	23	20	43	112
(b) No. of Cases notified under the regulations of 1912 for the first time.	26	7	33	7	5	12	45
(c) No. of cases restored to Register.	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
(d) Other additions during the year.	3	3	6	1	-	1	7
(e) No. of cases removed from Register during the year.	18	9	27	3	4	7	34
(f) No. of cases remaining on Register at the end of the year.	43	39	82	28	21	49	131

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA and VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

The following is a return of (a) the number of children resident in the Rural District who were immunised against diphtheria during the year 1952,(b)the number of children under the age of 15 years on the 31st December 1952 who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January 1938) and (c) the number of persons who were vaccinated against smallpox during the year ended 31st December 1952:-

Year of Birth	(a) Primary Inoculations	(a) Reinforcing Inoculations	(b)
1952	24	-	24
1951	207	-	221
1950	21	-	272
1949	11	-	302
1948	6	8	375
1947	10	105	391
1946	17	74	377
1945	3	32	280
1944	2	19	348
1943	6	42	338
1942	1	12	321
1941	3	8	298
1940	-	7	271
1939	-	1	287
1938	-	3	263
TOTALS	311	311	4368

(c)

Age at 31st December,1952	Number vaccinated	Number re-vaccinated
Under 1	161	-
1 to 4	101	-
5 to 14	10	18
15 and over	8	38
TOTALS	280	56

ANTI - MALARIA MEASURES

During the summer months, areas of water on Grain marshes and disused gravel pits were again treated for the destruction of mosquito lavae. Stables, cowsheds and dwelling houses were sprayed with insecticides for the destruction of the adult mosquitoes.

No cases of malaria have been notified on the district.

Mr. P.G. Shute, Sir Gordon Covell, Major General Dimond of the Ministry of Health and representatives of the Royal Navy and Port of Rochester visited the Isle of Grain in August to examine the problem of the control of mosquitoes, particularly the species capable of carrying malaria.

Stretches of water on the marshes and gravel pits were inspected for evidence of mosquito lavae. Attempts were also made to collect specimens of adult mosquitoes, but as the District Councils' employee had been systematically treating the ditches and farm buildings, very few specimens could be obtained.

An inspection of dwellings, however, showed the presence of large numbers, particularly in the dormitories of the Kent Oil Refinery Workmens Hostel where many adult female mosquitoes of the malarial carrying type were found on the underside of spring mattresses and in lockers.

Mr. Shute reported that, at an inspection of the Grain area earlier in the year, he had found large numbers of mosquitoes capable of carrying malaria and recalled that at the end of the first World War some 350 cases of malaria occurred in the vicinity of Grain amongst persons who had never been abroad. The infection in these cases was undoubtedly caused by mosquitoes becoming infected by the blood of troops who had served in malarial infected areas overseas, passing on the disease to the local inhabitants.

Mr. Shute expressed satisfaction with the results obtained by the District Council in greatly reducing the number of mosquitoes, but in view of the fact that many

technicians are arriving in this area from places like Abadan where no doubt many of them contracted malaria, further steps should be taken.

He suggested that all dwellings should be sprayed with insecticide at least twice a year and various methods of applying this were discussed. Representatives of the Ministry suggested that a cheap method would be to supply householders with spray ejectors ready charged with insecticide and instruct them in their use. This method was applied and, with the willing co-operation of householders, has contributed to the destruction of mosquitoes in the area.

MORTUARY AND BURIAL OF THE DEAD

Ten bodies were received into the mortuary at St. Werburgh Crescent, Hoo during the year.

The body of an unidentified male child was buried at public expense under the provision of Part IV of the National Assistance Act 1948.

VENERAL DISEASES

Abstract from Annual Return 1952

New Cases		Male	Female	Total
Syphilis	.....	9	5	14
Gonorrhoea	.....	10	3	13
Non-veneral	.....	15	4	19
		34	12	46

Total number of attendances.....563

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The County Council is responsible for the provision of a comprehensive ambulance service throughout the County. Other than in cases of accident and emergency, no ambulance will be provided, except upon the recommendation of a doctor, midwife, hospital or District Officer, and for the provision of a sitting-case car a certificate from a doctor is necessary.

To facilitate the call-out of ambulances in cases of accident or emergency, arrangements have been made with the Post Office authorities for such calls to be passed automatically to the nearest manned fire station, the staff of which will assume the responsibility of passing the call to the nearest manned ambulance station. The arrangement will not operate where direct lines exist between public call boxes and ambulance stations.

The service is provided by:-

(a) vehicles provided and manned by the County Council.
(b) vehicles operated and manned by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, British Red Cross Society acting as agents of the Council, and
(c) sitting-case cars provided through the Hospital Car Service as agents of the Council.

Ambulance Stations -

King Edward Road, Rochester.	Telephone Chatham 3540 and 45685.
Harden Memorial Hall, Hall Road, Northfleet.	Telephone Gravesend 5257/8.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS

In the case of every child born it is the duty of the father of the child, if at the time of the birth he is actually residing on the premises where the birth takes place, and of any person in attendance upon the mother at the time of, or within six hours after the birth, to send notice of the birth within thirty-six hours, to the County Medical Officer of Health, County Hall, Maidstone. Postcards with prepaid postage for this purpose are supplied to medical practitioners, midwives, hospitals and maternity homes, upon application to the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Maidstone.

WOMEN'S WELFARE CLINICS

These clinics are provided for the purpose of giving advice on women's minor ailments, sterility and on contraception where such advice is necessary for medical reasons.

Clinics for Strood Rural District -

Elm House, New Road Avenue, Chatham	- Wednesday afternoons.
Central, Windmill Street, Gravesend	- 2nd, 3rd and 4th Tuesday morning in each month.

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS

Special outfits for use when premature babies are to be nursed at home or for their conveyance to hospital, are available free upon application by a doctor or midwife at the following addresses.

Farnborough Hospital, Farnborough.
District Hospital, Pembury.
Sheppey General Hospital, Minster, Sheppey.
Willesborough Hospital, Nr. Ashford.
Royal Victoria Hospital, Folkestone.
West Kent General Hospital, Maidstone.

ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS

Advice and ante-natal care is given at these clinics. Post-natal examinations are carried out at ante-natal clinics.

Clinics for Strood Rural District -

Strood - Institute, Gun Lane.	Thursday mornings.
Vigo Village, Meopham - 121, Harley Street.	1st and 3rd Monday mornings.
Gravesend - Windmill Street.	Thursday afternoons.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics (continued)

Gravesend	- White Hill, Kings Farm Estate.	Tuesday afternoons.
Gravesend	- The Nest, Denton.	1st and 3rd Monday afternoons.

TUBERCULOSIS, MINOR AILMENT CLINICS, DENTAL CLINICS, SPECIAL CLINICS and VENERAL DISEASE CLINICS

1. Tuberculosis -	
13, New Road, Rochester. Tele: Chatham 2182. -	Monday afternoon 2-3pm. Special clinic for patients being X-rayed by Mass Radiography.
	Tuesday afternoon 2-3pm. Residents from Rochester, Chatham & Strood area.
	Thursday. Patients by appointment from doctors for X-ray and treatment.
	Friday morning 9.30-10.30am. Residents from Rochester, Chatham & Strood area.
Gravesend & North Kent Hospital.	Wednesday. General clinic. Thursday morning. Refill clinic.
2. Minor Ailment -	
Strood House, Corporation Street, Rochester.	Every Friday morning 9-10am.
Gun Lane, Strood.	Every Wednesday afternoon.
Welfare Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend.	Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings 9-10am.
Welfare Centre, The Nest Gravesend.	Every Tuesday and Friday mornings. 9-10am.

Clinics (continued)

Estate Office, Whitehill Rd., Gravesend.	Every Tuesday morning 9-10am.

3. Permanent Dental -

Strood House, Corporation St., Rochester.	Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
Manor Road, Gravesend.	Every day.
West Kent House, Station Rd., Northfleet.	Alternate Wednesdays, every Thursday and Friday.

4. Specialist. (children attend by appointment) -

Child Guidance - 118, Maidstone Road, Chatham.

Ophthalmic - 118, Maidstone Road, Chatham.	Every Monday all day, 1st 3rd and 5th Friday morning.
Gravesend Hosp.	Monday & Thursday afternoons, Tuesday mornings.

Speech defects -

118, Maidstone Rd., Chatham.	Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday all day.
The Nest, Gravesend.	Every Thursday.

5. Venereal Diseases -

Rochester-36, New Rd.	Men. Mondays 1.30 - 4.30pm. Thursdays 11.0am.-1.0pm. Women. Mondays 1.30-4.30pm. Thursdays 11.0am.-1.0pm.
Gravesend - 22, Cobham Street.	Men. Tuesday 11.0am.-1.0pm. Saturdays 9.0 - 10.0am. Women. Tuesdays 1.0 - 2.15pm. Saturdays 9.0 - 10.0am.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

These centres are open at the days and times set out for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of infants and children under the age of five years. Infant foods, national dried milk and Ministry of Food vitamin products are issued at these centres. A Medical Officer and a Health Visitor are in attendance at each centre.

Ministry of Food Offices and other centres are also available for the supply of national dried milk and Ministry of Food vitamin products for expectant and nursing mothers and children under five years of age.

Centres for Strood Rural District -

Cliffe - The Black Bull.	Tuesday afternoons.
Cobham - Meadow Room.	2nd & 4th Tuesday afternoons.
Cuxton - Social Club & Workingmens Institute.	2nd & 4th Thursday afternoons
Frindsbury Extra- Workingsmens Institute, Wainscott.	1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday afternoons.
Grain. Chapel School.	1st and 3rd Friday afternoons
Halling - The Institute, High St.	1st, 3rd and 5th Friday afternoons.
Higham - Village Memorial Hall.	2nd and 4th Friday afternoons
Hoo - Five Bells Inn.	Wednesday afternoon.
Meopham - Village Hall.	1st and 3rd Thursday afternoons.
Shorne - Village Hall.	2nd and 4th Thursdays.
Stoke - British Legion Hall.	2nd and 4th Friday afternoons.
Meopham - 121, Harley Street, Vigo Village.	Monday afternoons.

DISTRICT OFFICERS

These officers are responsible for:-

1. Duties as Authorised Officers under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts and under the Mental Deficiency Acts.

2. Acting as representatives of the County Health Department in dealing with enquiries made by the public and arranging for County Health Services to be made available in cases of difficulty.

District Officers (continued)

3. Carrying out the duties of the County Council under the National Assistance Act in :-

   (a) arranging admission of old, handicapped and homeless persons to residential establishments other than in cases of sickness.

   (b) the care of moveable property of patients who are admitted to hospital or a residential establishment provided by the Council where it appears that there is danger of loss or damage to the property.

District Officers and Assistants -

Rochester.	Office:	13, Gun Lane, Strood.	Telephone Strood 7451.
	Officer :	Mr.C.H.Hurdman, 4, City Way, Rochester.	Telephone Chatham 2681.
	Assistant Officer:	Mr.R.J.B.King, 154, Cedar Road, Strood.	Telephone Strood 78397.
Gravesend.	Office:	Arthur Street, Gravesend.	Telephone Gravesend 166.
	Officer:	Mr. G.T.Jeffery, 357,Watling Street, Dartford.	Telephone Dartford 3143.
	Assistant Officer:	Mr. E.S.Johnson, 50, Walpole Road, Bromley.	

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY SERVICE

This service, which is free, is to secure that an adequate number of midwives is employed by the Council for attending women in their own home, either as midwives or maternity nurses.

The names, addresses and telephone number of midwives are given below:-

Cooling) - Cliffe) -	Mrs. F.L. Lee, 5, Irvine Terrace, Cliffe.	Telephone Cliffe 223.
Cuxton -	Mrs. I.G.Sheath, St. Clements, Church Hill, Cuxton.	Telephone Strood 7503.
Frindsbury Extra(part) -	Miss S.McGarvey, 6,Alexander Cotts.,Higham.	Telephone Shorne 309.
Frindsbury Extra(part) -	Miss E.K.Wright, 22, Powlett Road,Frindsbury.	Telephone Strood 7557.
Halling -	Miss I.G.Sheath, (as above)	
Higham -	Miss S. McGarvey, (as above)	
High Halstow-	Miss F.A.Leaman, 3,Jubilee Cotts.,High Halstow.	Telephone Hoo 252.
Hoo -	Miss M.A.Webb, 11, St. Werburgh Crescent,Hoo.	Telephone Hoo 266
Grain -	Miss F.A.Leaman, (as above)	
Luddesdown) - Cobham) -	Miss E. Backhouse, 1, Lawrence Drive, Cobham.	Telephone Cobham 328.
Meopham -	Miss J.M. Collie, Clements Reach, Meopham.	Telephone Meopham 3127.
Meopham - Vigo Village	Miss E.M.Oliver, Nurse's Cottage, Fairseat, Sevenoaks.	Telephone Fairseat 20.

Domiciliary Midwifery Service (continued)

St. Mary Hoo - Miss F.A. Leaman,
3, Jubilee Cottages,
High Halstow.

Shorne - Miss E. Backhouse,
1, Lawrence Drive,
Cobham.

Stoke) - Miss F.A. Leaman,
Allhallows) - (as above)

HOME NURSING SERVICE

This service, which is also free, is to secure the attendance of nurses on persons who require nursing in their own homes. Apart from cases of emergency and accident, patients can only be attended when the nurse has been requested to do so by a doctor. At the present time, it is not possible to provide a night service.

The names and address of Home Nurses are given below. Where the nurse is on the telephone the number is also given:-

		Telephone Number.
Cooling.	Mrs. F.L. Lee, 5, Irvine Terrace, Cliffe.	Cliffe 223.
Cuxton.	Mrs. G.E. Bashford, 294, Wilson Avenue, Rochester.	Chatham 45772.
Frindsbury Ex. (part)	Miss S. McGarvey, 6, Alexander Cottages, Higham.	Shorne 309.
do (Upnor)	Miss K.R. Shorthouse, 11, Goddington Road, Strood.	Strood 7596.
Halling.	Miss E.C. Davidson, c/o. Mrs. Hogben, 141, Birling Road, Snodland.	Snodland 84388.
Higham.	Miss S. McGarvey, (as above)	
High Halstow.	Miss F.A. Leaman, 3, Jubilee Cottages, High Halstow.	Hoo 252.

Home Nursing Service (continued)

		Telephone Number.
Hoo.	Miss M.A.Webb, 11, St.Werburgh Crescent, Hoo.	Hoo 266.
Grain.	Miss F.A.Leaman, 3, Jubilee Cottages,High Halstow.	Hoo 252.
Luddesdown.	Miss E.Backhouse, 1, Lawrence Drive,Cobham.	Cobham 328.
Meopham.	Miss J.M. Collie, Clements Reach, Meopham.	Meopham 3127.
Meopham (Vigo Village).	Miss E.M. Oliver, Nurse's Cottage, Fairseat.	Fairseat 20.
St. Mary Hoo.	Miss F.A. Leaman, (as above)	
Shorne.	Miss E. Backhouse, (as above)	
Stoke.	Miss F.A. Leaman, (as above)	
Group Relief.	Miss L.S.Bradley, 2, Cross Way, Rochester.	Chatham 4056.

DOMESTIC HELP

This service is to provide domestic help for householders where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age. Householders are required to contribute towards the costs in accordance with their means.

Applications for domestic help for householders in Strood Rural District should be made to the Domestic Help Organiser, 13, Gun Lane, Strood.

HEALTH VISITORS

These officers are appointed for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of young children, persons suffering from

illness and expectant and nursing mothers, and as to the measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

The Health Visitors also undertake duties in connection with the School Health Service.

Health Visitors for the Strood Rural District:

Allhallows Cliffe Cooling High Halstow Hoo Grain St.Mary Hoo Stoke	Miss P.C.D. Biggs, Swiss Cottage, Shorne.	Shorne 353.
Cuxton Halling Luddesdown Meopham	Miss H.M. Gaunt, K.C.C. Clinic, 121, Harley Street, Vigo Village, Meopham.	
Frindsbury Extra.	Miss K.Lewis, 107, Rochester Road, Gravesend.	
Cobham Higham Shorne	Mrs. G.M. Blackmore, Station Road Clinic, 6, Station Road, Northfleet.	

HOSPITAL SERVICES

All cases of infectious disease are admitted to:-

	Telephone No.
River Hospital, Joyce Green, Dartford.	Dartford 3231.
St.William's Hospital, St.William's Way, Rochester.	Chatham 3243.
Keycol Hospital, Sittingbourne.	Newington 222.

DIPTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Facilities for immunisation, free of cost, are available at the following child welfare centres and at special immunisation clinics, and all Medical Practitioners have been invited to

Diphtheria Immunisation (continued)

participate in the scheme, which provides for free immunisation against Diphtheria. The child should normally have the first injection between the age of eight months and one year, and reinforcing doses shortly before starting school, and again at nine years of age.

Cobham, Meadow Room.	-	2nd and 4th Tuesday in the month 2 - 4 pm.
Cuxton, Social Centre, Bush Road,	-	2nd Thursday in the month - 4 pm.
Halling, The Institute	-	1st, 3rd, 5th Friday in the month 2 - 4 pm.
Meopham, Village Hall, Main Road.	-	1st, 3rd Thursday in the month 2.30 - 4.30 pm.
Shorne, Village Hall.	-	2nd and 4th Thursday in the month 3 - 4 pm.
Higham, Village Memorial Hall.	-	2nd and 4th Friday in the month 2 - 4 pm.

Supplies of A.P.T. and T.A.F. can be obtained from the County Laboratory, County Hall, Maidstone (Maidstone 4321) or from the Council Offices, (Health Department), Frindsbury Hill, Strood, (Strood 7622).

In addition to the welfare centres set out, the following regular immunisation clinics are held:-

Council Offices, Frindsbury Hill, Strood.	-	Every Friday morning 10-11 am.
M.&.C.W. Centre, 121, Harley Street Vigo Village, Meopham.		4th Tuesday afternoon in month 2.30-3.30pm.

Ministry of National Insurance

Local Offices:-

Chatham Local Office,
240, High Street,
Rochester.

Gravesend Local Office,
"Ravenscourt",
Pelham Road,
Gravesend.

NURSING REQUISITES

Arrangements have been made with the British Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Brigade for the continuance of the Medical Loans Depots on behalf of the County Council. The full range of nursing requisites will be available and details of the addresses and times the depots are open for distribution are available in the district offices. These arrangements will be in addition to the loan cupboards kept by the District Nurses. The depots deal with all applications for the loan of nursing requisites.

Medical Loan Depots -

		Telephone No.
Rochester -	B.R.C.S. 67, High Street - Daily 10am.-5.0pm. by appointment with Mrs. Cronk, 4, Roebuck Road, Rochester.	Chatham 3540.
-	St. John, 171, Maidstone Road - Daily (day and night) Mr. E.H. Love.	Chatham 3572.
Gravesend -	B.R.C.S. 12, Singlewell Road - by appointment with Mrs. Roberts.	Gravesend 403.
-	St. John, Park House, Park Place, Daily 8am. - 8pm. Miss L. Smith.	Gravesend 854.
Northfleet -	St. John, 69, Dover Road - Monday-Friday 7.30am.-9pm. Mr. C.J. Sims.	Gravesend 4603.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

Facilities for vaccination, free of direct cost, against Smallpox are available for infants at the following Child Welfare Clinics and all medical practitioners have been invited to participate in the scheme.

Vaccine lymph can be obtained from the County Laboratory, County Hall, Maidstone, by all medical practitioners carrying out vaccination under the Council's arrangements.

Cobham	-	Meadow Room.	-	2nd & 4th Tuesday 2-4pm.
Meopham	-	Village Hall, Main Road.	-	1st & 3rd Thursday 2.30-4.30pm.
Shorne	-	Village Hall.	-	2nd & 4th Thursday 3-4pm.
Special Clinics -				
		Council Offices, Frindsbury Hill, Strood.	-	Every Friday morning 10-11a
		M.&.C.W.Centre, 121,Harley Street, Vigo Village, Meopham.	-	4th Tuesday in month 2.30-3.30pm.

WATER SUPPLIES

The Parish of Halling and part of Cobham are supplied with water by the Mid-Kent Water Company, the remainder of the district being supplied by the Higham and Hundred of Hoo Water Company.

The water supplies are constant and the sufficiency is satisfactory except in the parishes of Isle of Grain, High Halstow and St. Mary Hoo. The inadequate supplies in these parishes were principally due to the large quantity of water being taken from the mains for industrial purposes at the Kent Oil Refinery, Grain. The Higham and Hundred of Hoo Water Company propose to increase the supply to the High Halstow area by means of two pumping stations at strategic positions on the existing mains. To increase the supply at Grain the Water Company propose, subject to satisfactory sample reports of the waters, to augment the mains supply with water from the War Department bore hole situated near the village.

Bacteriological and Chemical examination of Water Supplies.

Forty-five bacteriological and five chemical samples of water were taken from domestic supplies during the year. All samples showed the waters to be good waters except three, two of these being private well waters where the wells were not suitably protected and the other adverse sample was taken on the building site of Kent Oil Refinery where constant disturbance of the water mains and the making of new connections would account for this.

The five samples taken for chemical analysis consisting of four untreated and one treated waters showed the waters to be of great organic purity though hard.

A survey of water supplies to dwelling houses was carried out at the end of the year and the results of the survey are given overleaf

PARISH.	No. of Houses.	No. of Houses with indoor Water Supply.	No. of Houses With Standpipes.	No. of Houses with Public Water Supply.	No. of Houses on Private Supply, Wells Springs &c.
Allhallows	113	108	5	113	-
Cliffe	743	614	129	743	-
Cobham	370	360	10	370	-
Cooling	51	50	1	51	-
Cuxton	293	282	11	292	1
Frindsbury	897	884	13	897	-
Halling	683	683	-	682	1
Higham	533	521	12	531	2
High Halstow	136	134	2	134	2
Hoo	651	639	12	647	4
Isle of Grain	134	126	8	134	-
Luddesdown	62	61	1	48	14
Meopham	1019	1008	11	1010	9
St. Mary Hoo	70	69	1	68	2
Shorne	407	376	31	404	3
Stoke	182	138	44	176	6
TOTALS	6344	6053	291	6300	44
Percentage of Totals.	-	95.41%	4.59%	99.30%	.69%

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Collection and Disposal of Domestic Refuse

Domestic refuse is collected weekly throughout the district and disposed of by means of controlled tipping in a disused chalk pit in the parish of Cuxton. The refuse tip is treated regularly to prevent rat infestation and during the summer period insecticides are applied to prevent the breeding of flies and crickets.

Cesspool and Pail Closet Emptying

Cesspools are emptied upon request free of charge up to a maximum of four times per year for each cesspool and pail closets are emptied weekly in the parishes of Hoo, Stoke, Isle of Grain and Allhallows.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Sewers are provided for the drainage of premises in the parishes of Allhallows, Frindsbury Extra, Halling, Hoo and Isle of Grain. The sewer at Frindsbury Extra has been extended to the parishes of Higham and Shorne and will be completed during 1953.

The effluent of the Allhallows and Isle of Grain sewers empties into the River Thames and the others into the River Medway after treatment.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES SURVEY OF RURAL AREA

Drainage Facilities

PARISH	No. of Houses Surveyed.	No. of Houses connected to Public Sewer.	No. of Houses draining to cess-pools, Septic Tanks, etc.	No. of Houses with no drainage.
Allhallows	113	38	75	-
Cliffe	743	-	730	13
Cobham	370	-	370	-
Cooling	51	-	50	1
Cuxton	293	-	290	3
Frindsbury	897	554	342	1
Halling	683	582	101	-
Higham	533	-	514	19
High Halstow	136	-	135	1
Hoo	651	431	220	-
Isle of Grain	134	70	62	2
Luddesdown	62	-	62	-
Meopham	1019	166	832	21
St. Mary Hoo	70	-	68	2
Shorne	407	-	404	3
Stoke	182	-	181	1
TOTAL	6344	1841	4436	67

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES SURVEY OF RURAL AREA

Sanitary Accommodation

PARISH	No. of Houses Surveyed.	Water Closets.	Pail Closets.	Privies.
Allhallows	113	70	40	3
Cliffe	743	641	88	14
Cobham	370	329	38	3
Cooling	51	31	12	8
Cuxton	293	265	42	-
Frindsbury	897	854	28	1
Halling	683	665	18	-
Higham	533	426	85	22
High Halstow	136	100	36	-
Hoo	651	547	101	3
Isle of Grain	134	102	30	2
Luddesdown	62	37	23	2
Meopham	1019	973	46	-
St. Mary Hoo	70	36	34	-
Shorne	407	342	51	14
Stoke	182	86	94	2
TOTAL	6344	5504	766	74

The following is the position regarding applicants for Council Houses in the district, as at May, 1953.

Allhallows	-	35
Cliffe	-	90
Cobham	-	56
Cooling	-	11
Cuxton	-	24
Frindsbury	-	161
Halling	-	95
Higham	-	86
High Halstow	-	19
Hoo	-	87
Isle of Grain	-	158
Luddesdown	-	8
Meopham	-	119
St. Mary Hoo	-	9
Shorne	-	37
Stoke	-	36
Total		1031

The number of houses built by the District Council during the year was 111 and by private enterprise 36.

EX-ARMY CAMPS

Many of these hutted dwellings are now becoming very dilapidated and unsuitable for use as dwellings. The largest camp situated at Vigo Village, Meopham is shared by Gravesend Borough and Northfleet Urban District Councils together with this District Council.

The total number of huts used as dwellings at Vigo Village is 151, Gravesend Council administering 74 and Northfleet 43. The general policy of the respective authorities is to rehouse the people occupying the huts and not relet them. Northfleet Council have decided to re-house all occupants of their sector within two years. Throughout the rural district 254 huts are being used as dwellings.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Premises which are used for the sale of food or preparation for sale of articles of food, have been regularly visited throughout the year. The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption.

Ox-Tongue in Jelly.	7 lbs.	Putrid.
Full Cream Unsweetened Milk.	1 lb.14 ozs.	Blown.
Apricots in Syrup.	4 lbs.	Fermented.
Prawns.	3 pints.	Putrid.
Beef.	336 lbs.	Putrid.
Bacon.	12 lbs.	Mouldy.
Jellied Veal.	6 lbs.	Decomposed.
Mutton (English).	18 lbs.	Tainted.
Pigs Heads.	20 lbs.	Putrid.
Ham.	128 lbs.15 ozs.	Putrid.
Luncheon Meat.	28 lbs.	Blown.
Granulated Rice.	116 lbs.	Maggoty.
Peach Pulp.	1100 lbs.	Putrid.
Prunes.	17 lbs.	Mites.

ICE CREAM

Sixty-four premises are registered for the retail sale of ice cream. Nine samples were taken during the year and submitted to the County Pathologist, seven of which proved to be Grade I quality and two samples Grade II.

MILK DISTRIBUTION

There are 5 retailers and 7 producer/retailers registered as distributors of milk in the area and 10 dealers regailing milk in the area whose premises are not situated on the district.

During the year 57 milk samples were taken, the results of the examination of the milk are shown overleaf.

	DESIGNATED MILK			ORDINARY MILK.	HEAT TREATED
	Tuberculin Tested.	Accredited.	Total		
NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN DURING YEAR.	3	1	4	42	11
(a)(i) Number of samples of designated milk found to conform to the standards prescribed in the Milk (Special Designations)Regulations.	2	1	3	0	11
(ii)Number of samples of designated milk found on examination to have failed to conform to the standards prescribed.....	1	0	1	0	0
(b)(i)Number of samples of ordinary milk found on examination to have been produced in a cleanly manner.....				16	0
(ii)Number of samples of ordinary milk found on examination to be unsatisfactory.....				6	0
(c)(i)Number of samples of milk examined for tubercle bacilli infection and yielding negative results.....				19	0
(ii)Number of samples of milk examined for tubercle bacilli infection and showing positive results.....				1	0
(d)Number of samples of heat treated milk found on examination to have been efficiently pasteurised.....					11

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

WEIGHTS & MEASURES DEPARTMENT

Details of Samples taken by the County Sampling Officers within the STROOD RURAL DISTRICT during the year ended 31st December,1952.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1938-1950.

Almond Dessert	1	B/fd	23
Apricot Preserve	1	Laxobac	1
Beef Sausages	2	Lemola Iced Fancies	1
Black Currant Lollies	1	Lemon Squash	1
Boracic Acid B.P.	1	Luncheon Meat	1
Branston Pickle	1	Lung Syrup	1
Castor Oil	1	Milk	42
Compound Liquorice Powder	1	Pepper Flavoured Compound	1
Cough Cure	2	Rabbit in Jelly	1
Custard Pudding	1	Semolina	1
Dessicated Soup	1	Snowfil	1
Dot Mixture	1	Stabilised Calcium Aspirin	1
English Honey	1	Stomach Powder	1
Eucalyptus	1	Synthetic Cream Powder	1
Flaked Tapioca	1	Tomato Ketchup	1
Friars Balsam	1	Tooth Liniment	1
Fruit Salad in Syrup	1	Vinegar	1
Garden Mint	1	Whisky	2
Gin	1	White Oils Embrocation	1
Ice-Cream	2	Total	83
C/fd.	23		

SUMMARY

Milks	42
Drugs	13
Spirits	3
Other Samples	25
	83

Food and Drugs Acts (continued)

Article	Analysis	Action taken
Lemola Iced Fancies.	Inferior. Contains no fat.	Manufacturer amended labelling details.
Stabilised Calcium.	Free salicylic acid 28%. Decomposed: unfit for use.	Very old stock. Remainder destroyed.
Milk.	1.7% deficient in fat.	All these milk samples were from the same supplier. The fat deficiencies were due to the milking sequence which did not ensure proper mixing of the milk of the herd. Advice was given to the producer. Further samples have been satisfactory.
Milk.	3.3% deficient in fat.	
Milk.	6.7% deficient in fat.	
Milk.	16.7% deficient in fat.	
Milk.	10.0% deficient in fat.	
Milk.	6.7% deficient in fat.	
Milk.	1.7% deficient in fat.	

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1952

To the Chairman and Members of the Strood Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the work of the department for the year 1952.

Public Health Act, 1936

During the year 702 inspections were made under the provisions of the Public Health Act. In six cases only it was necessary to serve statutory notices in order to have nuisances abated. The situation regarding the carrying out of repairs was somewhat easier during the year, but owners of tenanted dwelling houses are unwilling to do other than essential repairs, due chiefly to the uneconomic rents which are at present controlled by the Rent Restriction Acts.

The following work was carried out by property owners during the year after inspection and notices had been served.

EXTERNAL

Accumulations of refuse removed.	4.	Permanent ventilation provided.	2.
Cesspools emptied.	13.	Privies abolished.	2.
Cesspools provided.	1.	Roofs repaired.	19.
Cesspools repaired.	2.	Walls repointed.	6.
Chimney pots repaired.	2.	Walls repaired.	12.
Chimney stacks repaired.	2.	Watercourses cleared.	1.
Damp Proof Courses provided.	4.	Water supplies pipes repaired.	7.
Doors provided.	1.	W.C. Apartments repaired.	8.
Doors repaired.	5.	W.C. Basins replaced.	5.
Downspouts repaired.	1.	W.C. Cisterns repaired.	5.
Drains cleared.	16.	W.C. 's provided.	4.
Drains repaired.	3.	W.C. seats repaired.	6.
Dustbins provided.	4.	Window cills repaired.	2.
Gutters cleansed.	3.	Window frames repaired.	10.
Gutters repaired.	11.	Windows repaired.	14.
Infestations dealt with.	3.	Yard paving repaired.	4.
Inspection covers repaired.	1.		
Locks repaired.	1.		
Pail closets replaced.	1.		

INTERNAL

Ceilings repaired.	11.	Sinks provided.	3.
Cooking ranges repaired.	5.	Sinks repaired.	2.
Cooking ranges replaced.	1.	Skirting boards repaired.	1.
Floors repaired.	12.	Staircases repaired.	1.
Premises cleansed.	6.	Taps repaired.	3.
Sashcords Provided.	17.	Walls repaired.	16.
Sink waste pipes repaired.	3.	Washing boilers repaired.	4.
Door repaired.	1.	Window fastening provided.	1.

Housing Act, 1936

Four Demolition Orders were made by the District Council during 1952 and three Closing Orders. Owners of unfit property demolished a total of eight dwellings without recourse to statutory action.

Factories Act, 1937

Forty-three factories and 48 other premises within the provisions of the Act were inspected during the year, a total of 220 visits being made. Informal action was taken to remedy defects and improve conditions in twelve cases.

Inspections were made to the premises of ten outworkers during the year. These outworkers are engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928

During the year 155 visits of inspection were made to the 78 petroleum storage installations in the area. Several minor defects, chiefly electrical and mechanical faults on pumps, were pointed out to licencees who willingly had repairs carried out without necessitating formal action.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

2186 inspections were carried out to all classes of premises under the provisions of the above Act and 78 premises found to be infested were successfully treated.

Summary of Inspections and Visits during 1952

Under Public Health Acts:-

No. of houses visited.	380.
No. of other premises visited.	322.
No. of re-visits.	444.
No. of nuisances found.	240.
No. of nuisances abated.	254.
No. of informal notices served.	88.
No. of informal notices complied with.	118.
No. of statutory notices served.	6.
No. of statutory notices complied with.	0.
No. of inspections to caravans.	136.
No. of inspections to workplaces.	11.
No. of visits, refuse disposal.	81.
No. of inquiries in cases of infectious diseases.	69.
No. of visits re: disinfection.	36.
No. of houses disinfected.	29.
No. of water samples taken.	45.

Filthy or Verminous Premises

No. of houses inspected.	17.
No. of houses re-inspected.	6.

Under Housing Act:-

No. of houses inspected.	51.
No. of houses re-inspected.	85.
No. of houses inspected for overcrowding.	5.
Miscellaneous housing visits.	42.

Under Shops Act & Factories Act:-

No. of shops visited.	428.
No. of factories visited.	220.
No. of workplaces visited.	11.
No. of inspections re: outworkers.	20.
No. of Bakehouse inspections.	14.

Under Food & Drugs Act:-

No. of inspections at Shops and Stalls.	253.
No. of Fried Fish Shops inspected.	8.
No. of Butchers Shops inspected.	48.
No. of fishmongers shops inspected.	13.
No. of grocers shops inspected.	147.
No. of premises inspected where ice-cream is sold.	90.
No. of visits to street vendors of food.	44.
No. of inspections to canteens.	15.
No. of inspections to dairies and milk distributors.	50.
No. of inspections to food preparing premises.	63.
No. of inspections to restaurants.	36.
No. of inspections to licensed premises.	81.
No. of milk samples taken.	57.
No. of ice-cream samples purchased.	9.
Miscellaneous food visits.	6.

Your obedient Servant,

G. WILSON.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.